



December 20, 2021

Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Public Access to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

Dear Mr. Bonham,

At the State Coastal Conservancy's May 2021 meeting, the Conservancy authorized funding to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to advance work on the Ballona Wetlands Restoration project. Thank you for your presentation at that meeting. During the discussion and consideration of that approval, Conservancy Board members conveyed the importance of increasing public access to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve as soon as possible. At our December 2021 meeting, the Conservancy Board directed me to write to you to request that the Department take steps to increase public access at Ballona.

Based on conversation with your staff this week, I am pleased to hear this is a priority for the Department as well. I understand that the Department will be opening access to Area A off Fiji Way, which will be an exciting opportunity for the public to access the Reserve. I understand you are also pursuing opening access to the south levee, which is a pedestrian path that is managed by the County of Los Angeles. Thank you for moving this additional access opportunity forward. I would also encourage the Department to create a mechanism to facilitate special access for tribal representatives to access the Reserve. As discussed in May of 2021, the Conservancy will also be supporting tribal engagement in the restoration of the Reserve. We continue to support this important restoration project and expanded public access to the Reserve.

I would appreciate a response to this letter prior to the Conservancy's February 3rd meeting so that I can report on progress to the Conservancy Board.

Sincerely,

*Amy Hutzell*

Amy Hutzell  
Executive Officer

cc: Mark Pestrella, Director Los Angeles County Public Works

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Amy Hutzel

amy.hutzel@scc.ca.gov

Interim Executive Officer

State Coastal Conservancy

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